

THE PALATKA NEWS

and Advertiser.

NEW SERIES VOL. XXV. NO. 44.

PALATKA, FLA., FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1917.

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PENINSULAR PEOPLE PETITION FOR ROAD

From Dunn's Creek to Volusia County—A State Highway.

Possibly the most representative petition that has ever been presented to the board of county commissioners for an expensive public improvement was that which was handed to the board on Tuesday by Messrs. W. R. Glynn of Crescent City and Mr. L. J. McLeod of Welaka.

There are exactly 180 freeholders in the district covered by this petition who are qualified voters, of which number 123 had signed the petition. Of the 57 who did not sign, many could not be seen, a number of whom are well-known supporters of the proposition. Several others are dead and a number have moved away.

The petition is for the creation of a special road and bridge district on the peninsula and for the commissioners to call a bonding election to raise money needed to construct a hard-surfaced highway from Dunn's Creek to the northern boundary of Volusia county.

This piece of road is to be a part of the State Highway running from Jacksonville to Tampa, via Green Cove Springs, Palatka, San Mateo, Satsuma, Panama, Lake Como, Crescent City, Seville, DeLand, Sanford, Orlando, Kissimmee, Lakeland, Plant City to Tampa.

The State Commissioners of Highways have adopted this route and it is to be known as the St. Johns River (Seville) Highway. The State has also guaranteed to pay \$50,000 toward the cost of construction of this piece of road through Putnam county, and a similar amount on the road from the Volusia county line south to DeLand.

It is provided in the petition for the bonding election that a branch road shall be built from Satsuma to Welaka, a distance of six miles, though the branch will be built of shell and will not be part of the State's contribution, which must go only to trunk line roads. The road is to be constructed under the direction of the State highway board and when completed it will be a State road and as such will be maintained by the State, though 50 per cent of the cost will come from the district.

The completion of this road will give to Putnam county a north to south trunk road highway practically all the way. The main trunk line of the proposed road is to be constructed of sand and will be a shell base.

There is no doubt of the people in the precincts directly interested voting in overwhelming majority for the bonds.

COUNTY BOARD WILL PAY TEACHERS' FARE

To State Teachers' Institute
Provided Excursion
Rates Prevail.

The county school board met on Tuesday and discussed the business of the month.

A resolution of importance was introduced by a resolution to the effect that the board will pay the fare of any teacher or school teacher, who is sent to attend the meeting of the State Teachers' Association at Orlando, Fla., and will be provided with a room and board for the duration of the conference.

The resolution takes place during the county vacation and at a time when teachers can avail themselves of the opportunity to attend the convention. The board will help many to decide the question of attendance.

The question of the City streets vacation was settled by leaving the board of the vacation to the various school trustees in the several districts. The board took the date of beginning on Dec. 21st.

The board also ordered the school to be closed because of lack of attendance and William Hensley was asked to see to it that the school is properly run.

Special tax district elections were ordered for East Palatka, Grandin and Sunnyside.

The board also ordered the Monday vote in the Palatka special district election and declared D. E. Lynds, A. H. Hensley and W. W. Tilghman elected.

The vote also favored a three mill tax by a large majority. Mr. Lynds received 56 votes, Mr. Hensley 50 and W. W. Tilghman 72. Votes were given also to the following: Paul G. Hensley who became an 11th year candidate, "H. Dr. Warren, who was not a candidate; 17; then there were 17 votes scattered among eight non-candidates.

Presbyterian Church.

The pastor Rev. Donald MacQueen, D. D., will preach in the morning at 11 o'clock on the topic, "Lessons From Life's Hard Places." In the evening at 7:30 o'clock, his topic will be "The Cost of High Living."

Sunday school at 9:45 a. m., superintendent F. T. Merrill. Christian Endeavor society at 6:30 p. m. A cordial welcome to all strangers and visitors.

PALATKA ON VERGE OF SUGAR FAMINE.

Not a Pound Can be Had of
Any of the Jobbing
Houses.

Palatka housekeepers bid fair to experience within a few days something that will enforce the idea of the need of this food conservation which the government has been preaching for the past several months.

Beyond a few pounds of sugar in the hands of the retailers in the city, not a pound of sugar can be secured in Palatka. The big wholesale houses like the W. A. Merryday Co., Florida Grocery Co., Merryday Grocery Co. and the Vertrees Company are entirely out and cannot say when they will be able to get more sugar.

The Cuban crop sugar is now about due, but this must be refined after arrival and it will be some weeks before it will begin getting to Palatka. The wholesalers above noted cannot buy in any market at present.

E. W. Elliott of the Economy Grocery said: "We have some sugar, possibly 1,000 pounds, but that isn't much when it is considered that in normal times our sales run as high as 200 pounds a day. For the past week we have been limiting sales to 10 pounds to a family, and other grocers are doing the same thing. We will probably be obliged to cut this limit to two pounds a week to a family. We can't get any more, though we have tried every market of which we know. Other grocers are in the same fix."

A lady from New York state who was in the city this week said that for several weeks back the grocers in her state had refused to sell more than two pounds a week to any one family. And others from other sections of the north report the same condition. Palatka has had all the sugar it wanted up to the present time. It will now be forced to economize in its use, and maybe go without entirely.

DEPUTY TURNER INDICTED FOR MURDER

By Grand Jury at St. Augustine—Killed Fleeing
Boy Prisoner.

Deputy Sheriff Turner was indicted by the grand jury for murder in the second degree, the indictment being returned yesterday shortly after circuit court reconvened for the afternoon session.

Practically all interest in this term of court centered in the action of the grand jury in this case. The alleged shooting of Elmer Jernigan by Deputy Turner is still fresh in the memories of the people as it occurred less than a month ago. Elmer Jernigan, a seventeen-year-old youth, was shot while attempting to escape from the officer who was taking him to the county jail. The boy gave considerable trouble to the officer, escaping twice. The first time he was chased and captured by the officer and he was being led to the automobile when he promised the officer that he would give no more trouble if the officer would release his hold on him. Deputy Turner accepted the promise and released his hold, whereupon Jernigan shot. He paid no attention to the officer when the latter called to him to halt, and Deputy Turner drew his pistol and while pursuing the fleeing boy, started to shoot. The third shot struck the boy in the back and caused death within a few minutes. Deputy Turner immediately surrendered himself to be placed under arrest. Later he was formally arrested on a warrant charging him with murder, and after several days he was admitted to bail in the sum of \$2,500. It was generally believed that if an independent was returned against him it would be for a crime of less gravity than murder.

As murder in the second degree is not a capital crime this case comes within the jurisdiction of the special court of record and will be certified to that court by the circuit court. The special court of record will convene after circuit court adjourns and the case of Deputy Sheriff Turner will be added to the docket.

Baptist Ladies Send Boxes.

The Missionary Society of the Baptist church met at the church Tuesday afternoon and after a short business session the society went to the home of Mrs. C. C. Hudson, where the ladies spent a most helpful afternoon packing two boxes which were sent to the Baptist Orphanage at Ardenia. The society is clothing an orphan, exclusive of help given to the general orphanage. The clothing, cash and groceries amounted to over \$114, and the ladies wish to extend sincere thanks to merchants and individuals who donated toward the boxes. The little circles will meet next Tuesday afternoon with the following ladies: The Ann Judson circle with Mrs. Douglas on Carr street; The Fannie Heck circle with Mrs. Perrine on Bronson street; The Lulu Terry circle with Mrs. S. C. Stallings.

OCKLAWAHA VALLEY RY MAY NOT BE SCRAPPED

State of Florida Had to be
Consulted—Hearing on
Wednesday.

Despite the fact that the Ocklawaha Valley R'y has posted notices at all stations along its line that the road would cease to be operated after Nov. 20th, the railway company did recognize the further fact that in order to abandon it must secure consent of the State. To this end the road managers petitioned the State Railway Commission for that authority.

This authority has not yet been secured.

It was on a petition of the road for this permission to abandon that a hearing was held before the State Railway Commission at Ocala on Wednesday.

In response to the note of alarm given by The Palatka News last week, jobbers and other business men of this city met last Saturday and employed Hon. S. J. Hilburn to represent Putnam county in a contest of this petition. Col. Hilburn and Mr. H. O. Hamm went to this hearing. Also Col. A. H. Odom, county attorney, attended the hearing on request of the board of county commissioners, though he took no part in the proceedings. His turn will come later, possibly.

Col. H. M. Hampton of Ocala also opposed the granting of the petition as a representative of the Ocala board of trade.

Col. William Hocker of Ocala represented the petitioners.

Col. Hilburn was called on first to present testimony in opposition to the petition. He was able to show as an asset to the statement of the company that "the road was losing money—running behind every month," that the road had not only made no effort to secure business but that it had discouraged any business which was offered. The Rodman Lumber Co. it was shown had offered millions of feet of lumber and ties to the road which had not been handled; the Wilson Cypress Co. of this city also had been unable to get its lumber and other material over the road.

Col. Hilburn also on cross-questioning Superintendent Hollimake elicited the information that the road had been over an immense profit on its original investment if it would scrap the road and sell the rails and iron to the French government.

It was shown to the railroad commission from the testimony that the Ocklawaha Valley has not been in the market for business and that the one reason it is not a paying proposition is the company's neglect.

Col. Hilburn cited much law to show that there was ample precedent for denying the petition.

The railroad commission stated at the close of the hearing that it would consider the case in all its bearings and in event it denied the petition would take proper action in the courts to prevent discontinuance of the service.

The priority ownership of the Ocklawaha Valley R'y is in the hands of the Assets Realization Company of New York, a committee of which company has ordered the discontinuance of the road and its sale for junk.

But it looks as if there would be some difficulty in carrying out that order; as if the people who have been so badly served by the line would have something to say in the matter.

ST. AUGUSTINE AND PALATKA CONNECTED

By All Brick Highway—Mile
at Hastings Has Been
Completed.

The St. Augustine Record of last Tuesday did some rejoicing which all in Palatka can join in with zest. The Record said:

Between the cities of St. Augustine and Palatka there now exists a brick-paved highway every foot of the way. This is a wonderful achievement as marking the progressive spirit which prevails in Putnam and St. Johns county in the matter of good roads. There has just been completed at Hastings the laying of the last bricks in the missing link of one mile which for many months existed from the Putnam county line eastward to the Dixie Highway in the town of Hastings. This roadway has now been completed and is open for traffic so that from now on automobilists will find it very pleasant and comfortable traveling the distance between the two cities. The completion of this highway will necessarily greatly increase traffic and when the St. Johns River scenic highway which is contemplated to DeLand becomes a reality, a shorter route will be afforded to Middle Florida points. The finishing of this important road work also means that the people of Palatka and all that section of the State will have ready access to the beach resorts at St. Augustine.

WOMAN'S CLUB HOUSE PUBLICLY DEDICATED

With Appropriate Ceremonies
Yesterday—Mrs. W.
S. Jennings Delivers
Address.

With a beautiful afternoon as an asset the new Palatka Woman's Club House located on Reid street, was formally dedicated yesterday afternoon.

The club was honored with the presence of the always welcome state president, Mrs. W. S. Jennings of Jacksonville, excerpts from whose address will be found later. Seated on the platform were the local president, Mrs. J. L. Dunsford, Mrs. W. S. Jennings, state president of the Federation of Women's Clubs, Mrs. M. S. Brown, chairman of the building committee, Mrs. D. J. Coughlin, chairman state inland waterways commission; Mrs. E. L. Mann, treasurer of the local club; Rev. C. R. D. Crittenton, rector of St. Mark's Episcopal church and Mayor W. P. Merriam.

After the singing of America, Rev. Crittenton led in a brief prayer. The president Mrs. J. L. Dunsford gave a short address in which she told of the aims and ambitions of the club women, and of the happy feeling of possessing a home of their own.

Mrs. Dunsford then introduced the following speakers who made timely and appropriate remarks concerning the new club house with the interesting facts of history, and aims for the future. Mayor Merriam, Mrs. M. S. Brown, Mrs. Coughlin and last of all the beloved state president, Mrs. Jennings.

Mrs. Jennings on account of multitudinous duties, especially at this war time, said she was not prepared to give a formal address of dedication, finding it difficult to even get to Palatka, but she was happy to come and gave a most inspiring and interesting talk along the topics that are so vitally interesting to the women of America today, namely the war and the part the club women are playing and must continue to play during future months. We can only touch on a few of the good things she said namely, our duty of conservation of foods, our duty to this and allied countries, conservation of self to service and sacrifice, seeing to the education of the young, especially as the manhood of the nation is being spent, and the future citizens will have problems more momentous than we have these days. Mrs. Jennings gave the interesting information that the state federation now numbers 9000 members, a growth that has doubled in three years. Organization means much at this serious time. Florida stands at the head in some departments of club work which is very gratifying. "Let nothing stand in the way of our duty to our club, and develop a club conscience." Mrs. Jennings, aside from regular duties incumbent upon her office has taken on many other arduous tasks now up to those in places of trust and responsibility, and after a formal dedicatory address in brief, Rev. Crittenton closed with prayer and the singing by the audience of the "Star Spangled Banner." The women of the Palatka Woman's Club are happy indeed to possess such a complete and artistic club home and it means a reward for labor, thought and sacrifice expended in its behalf.

The new club house stands as a civic center, whence radiates every patriotic undertaking the Red Cross crowning them all.

AUTOS "FOR HIRE" MUST COME ACROSS.

County Board Instructs Tax
Collector to Get More
License Money.

A resolution passed by the county commissioners this week instructs the tax collector to get license taxes from owners of autos "for hire." The resolution reads:

Resolved, That Putnam county shall levy and collect a county license of 50 per cent of the amount of State licenses on all automobiles used for hire in Putnam county in accordance with Section 8 of Chapter 7277, Acts of 1917, and that each person paying such "For Hire" license shall be presented a suitable metal tag on which shall be inscribed in suitable form "Putnam County, Fla. For Hire," and the year for which such hire license has been paid, but such tags shall not be numbered. Such "For Hire" license tag for the current year must be displayed in a conspicuous place on each and every automobile used for hire in Putnam county, and the tax collector is hereby authorized and directed to collect such "for hire" licenses on all automobiles carrying passengers for hire in Putnam county.

A higher "for hire" than drivers desire, Has been placed on their wagons of tin; And the lonesome crier in the speeding flyer Will make a "kick" when it comes to him.